

# Safety Bulletin



## Holiday Fire Safety Bulletin SB04-009

### FIREPROOF YOUR HOLIDAYS

Each year thousands of families mark the Holiday Season as a time of tragedy instead of joy due to deadly fires. The real tragedy is that most of these fires can be prevented. By following the common sense tips, your family can enjoy a happy and safe holiday season.

Electrical fires occur throughout the year, but during the holiday they increase sharply. Be sure your outlets and circuits are not overloaded. Decorative lights are often used year after year; check carefully for frayed and worn cords and replace or discard them. When using electric lights (inside or outside) make sure they are Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) listed decorations. Do not overload extension cords. Always remember to turn off all electrical lights and decorations before leaving your home or going to bed.

Candles are popular holiday decorations but can cause fires if left unattended or ignored. Always place candles away from combustible material such as curtains, trees, and other combustible decorations. Never leave candles unattended. Never put candles on a Christmas tree. Always extinguish candles when leaving your home or going to bed. Also place your candles high to keep them out of reach from small children.

If you are using a live tree, ensure it is fresh. Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and space heaters. Always keep the base of the tree in water and check it daily. Dispose of the tree soon after the holidays, before it dries out. When disposing of your tree never burn your tree in a fireplace or furnace. If you are using a metal tree, never use electric lights, you could get the shock of your life.

Keep in mind that working smoke detectors can alert you to a fire in your residence. Test them to make sure they work.